REASONS humbly offered for the Building of *NEW-CHURCHES* in the City of *DUBLIN*, &c.

HIS GRACE THE LORD LIEUTENANT OF *IRELAND* having been pleaſed, in his late Speech to both Houſes of Parliament, to take notice of the Popiſh Clergy, who, in defiance of the Laws now in Force, have come into this Kingdom in great Numbers, and whoſe chief Views and Endeavours, have been to corrupt the Principles of his Majeſty's good Subjects, by perverting the weak and ignorant from the True and Orthodox Faith, and alienating the Minds and Affections of others from their bounden Duty and Allegiance; It is not to be doubted but the Parliament will, according to their uniform and ſteady Courſe of Proceeding, frame a Law which may effectually ſuppreſs the exceſſive Number of Popiſh Prieſts, and oblige ſuch of them as may be permitted to officiate, to a peaceable, quiet, and good Behaviour.

IN conſequence of ſuch a Law, we might venture to promiſe, that by the Divine Bleſſing upon the Care and Vigilance of the Eſtabliſhed Clergy (being no longer overpower'd by Numbers) we ſhould not only ſecure the preſent *Proteſtants* from the *crafty wiles of ſuch as lye in wait to deceive*; but bring over many of the deluded *Papiſts* from their **erroneous Worſhip**, and **rebellious Principles**, and reconcile them to our Religion and Government.

SUPPOSING then, that the common Wiſhes and Hopes will be anſwered in this Matter; it would next be conſider'd, What proviſion there is in the ſeveral Parts of this Kingdom, for accommodating the preſent Members of the Eſtabliſh'd Church, and ſuch as ſhall come over to it, in the Publick Worſhip of God. On this Enquiry, it will be found, a Truth as evident as it is deplorable, that the Churches in this Kingdom are ſo very few, (not to mention the ruinous condition of many of them in ſeveral remote Parts) that they cannot contain one Third of thoſe, who (it may be reaſonably preſum'd) would willingly reſort thereto; Nay, it would be a happineſs, if the preſent Churches in Cities and great Towns, could accommodate even one Half of the *Proteſtants* at this time among us.

HARD, then, is the Lot of thoſe, who may be puniſhed by Law for not attending duly that place of Worſhip, from which they are unavoidably precluded, for want of room to receive them!

CAN any thing, therefore, more become the Wiſdom and Piety of the Legiſlature, than to paſs One ſuch further Law, as may in ſome meaſure redreſs theſe great Evils, by giving the Publick Aſſiſtance towards the building and repairing of Churches in the ſeveral Parts of this Kingdom, where the People cannot but deſire ſuch a ſupply for their ſpiritual wants, but from their *real* Poverty muſt for ever deſpair of providing it themſelves.

THE Temper and Diſpoſition of the preſent Parliament, encourages all good Men to expect their concurrence in promoting this excellent Work, ſo manifeſtly conducive to make us *a happy Proteſtant People*, with their uſual becoming Zeal: And it ſeems to have been reſerved for this happy Juncture of Affairs, when all things are quiet at Home, and a MOST NOBLE PERSON preſides over us, who hath given repeated Aſſurances, that he will contribute whatever lies in his power, to promote the Honour, the Security, and the Happineſs of this Kingdom.

TAKING it then for granted, that the building of Churches in diverſe Parts of the Nation, where they are much wanted, is a Work of ſuch Expediency and Advantage, as to merit a *Publick* Encouragement; The giving this Encouragement, firſt to Cities and great Towns, and to this City before all others, is a Method that ſpeaks it ſelf. For *Dublin* being the Metropolis, and conſequently the moſt populous and every way conſiderable; the Prevalence of Religion here, whether *Proteſtant* or *Popiſh*, cannot but have a general Influence throughout all the Country. Now here at preſent we abound in un-Regiſtred Prieſts, and Romiſh Miſſionaries, who not content with creeping into private Houſes to delude the Simple and Unwary, make no ſcruple to perform their Superſtitious and Idolatrous Worſhip in an open manner, having ſet up in ſeveral Pariſhes Three or Four Maſs-Houſes, and lately erected One, with a Dwelling Houſe (in all Likelyhood) for the un-Regiſtred Officiating Prieſts, in a Part of the City, where, till now, no Maſs-Houſe hath been ever known ſince the happy Revolution.

TO ſtem therefore this Torrent of Popery which threatens to overſpread us, Maugre all the Fences of our preſent Laws; it is humbly hoped, that among the Proviſions which the Wiſdom of the Parliament will lay down in this Caſe, the building of more Pariſh-Churches in this Enlarged, and Encreaſing City will be one.

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It is then most humbly offered and submitted to the HONOURABLE HOUSE of COMMONS, whether an easy Duty (suppose 8*d*. *per Ton*) upon Coals and Culm imported into this City, may not be the most expeditious as well as equal Method of raising a small Fund to build New-Churches, and Rebuild old ones, in several large Parishes where they are much wanted upon many Accounts. The Stately Edifices which have been lately raised in *London* by a Duty of the same kind, but in a vastly greater Proportion, point out a fair Example to be copied in *Dublin*; and it is conceived there may be more Certainty, and less Expence and Trouble attending this Imposition than any other that can be devised.

For Coals must always be had, and will be consumed in great Quantities; and the charge proposed of one Peny *per* Barrel, is so very small, that it would never be felt, no not by the Poor; for among such as are really so, none can be supposed to pay above three, four, or six pence *per Annum*, by reason of this Duty, and that in as many as, or perhaps more Gales than, there are half Barrels in a Tun: And it may be reasonably supposed, that in such New-Churches when Erected, the Collections made for the Poor, will supply them with as much Additional Charity, in a Week, as their Expences this way will amount to in a Year. The more Churches there are built, the more Alms will be gathered for the Support of the poor; and since by his Grace of *Dublin*'s Vigilant Care, the Rules of Law touching Collections for the Poor are exactly observed; whatever shall be thus given cannot fail of being well applied. Besides which, the Cries for Spiritual Food are as loud as that for *the Meat which perisheth*, and ought to be first provided for. And it comes well attested from the City of *Cork*, that tho' by a late Act of this present Parliament, no less than three Halfpence *per* Barrel hath been added there to the Duty on Coals, for the Building of One Church only; yet no Complaint hath been heard from the Poor, no more *crying in their Streets* on Account of that new Duty.

It might be of some Weight likewise to consider, that the whole produce of this Fund, if granted, will be applied to the immediate Service of this City, by causing Money to circulate among many useful Tradesmen and Artificers, and employing a considerable Number of poor Day-Labourers in constant Work.

It is humbly presumed also, that the Duty proposed, cannot affect our Infant Colliery, or in the least prejudice the Interest of the proprietors thereof; for in Fact the Buyers in this City do and will pay the Duty, and that too in a manner burthensome to none: Tho' from the Character of the worthy Gentlemen concerned in this Colliery, there is no Reason to doubt, not only of their consenting to, but promoting a Bill, which if passed into a Law, will draw down a general Blessing from Heaven upon the Nation, in which they will be common Sharers with their Brethren.

However, it is the thing itself that would claim Regard, more than the particular manner of doing it. The COMMONS in Parliament are confessedly the best Judges where Taxes of any kind should be laid; the Promoters of this Bill do not presume to be tenacious of their own Opinion, in a matter of so high a Nature; but humbly rest satisfied in the Determination of their REPRESENTATIVES: they only wish and pray, that a Resolution may be agreed on, to consider of Ways and Means for erecting of New-Churches in this City where they shall be judged to be Necessary; and then they doubt not but the propereſt Methods will be found out and agreed upon —— Any Way whatever, that may raise about 1500*l*. *per Annum* for the Space of 21 Years, may probably answer the Exigencies of this City; which will be an happy Step, towards perfecting the Reformation here; the effects of which will extend to the remotest Parts of the Kingdom; Children yet Unborn will reap the Benefit of such pious Care and Bounty, and bless the GLORIOUS INSTRUMENTS of so much good to this Church and Nation.